

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 123537

63

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 NRC-05

TRSE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 MC-02 AF-08 ACDA-07 AID-05

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /090 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:PHWACKERBARTH:MKF

APPROVED BY ARA:HEWSON A. RYAN

ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN

L/ARA:MKOZAK(INFO)

ARA/PLC:SQUIGG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123537

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES

SUBJECT:ARREST OF SALVADORAN COS, COL. MANUEL ALFONSO
RODRIGUEZ

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 2301 (B) MOSKOWITZ/RYAN TELCON

1. DEPT HAS REQUESTED THAT U.S. ATTORNEY FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK PROVIDE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNT OF NATURE AND EXTENT OF RODRIGUEZ' ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. U.S. ATTORNEY HAS AGREED TO REVIEW ALL RECORDS OF CASE TO DETERMINE WHAT INFORMATION CAN BE PASSED TO GOES WITHIN LIMITS OF U.S. JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

2. IN THE INTERIM, YOU MAY WISH TO ADVISE GOES THAT
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PAGE 02 STATE 123537

DEPT. OF STATE HAD NO REPEAT NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF

SITUATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF RODRIGUEZ. THE DEPARTMENT FIRST LEARNED OF THE CASE DURING THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 16 WHEN DEPTOFF WAS CONTACTED BY ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WHO ADVISED HIM THAT ARREST HAD TAKEN PLACE LATE SATURDAY/EARLY SUNDAY.

3. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR WEAPONS IN QUESTION ON MAY 5. IT WAS STAFFED

OUT TO SEVERAL USG AGENCIES FOR COMMENTS AND CLEARANCE ON MAY 7, AS PART OF NORMAL RIGOROUS SCREENING PROCESS. THE SIZE OF THE ORDER AND KIND OF WEAPONS INVOLVED RAISED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS IN OUR MINDS WHEN RECEIVED IN ARA ON MAY 11. FURTHER TECHNICAL DATA ON BUSHMASTER, WHICH IS NOT A WELL KNOWN WEAPON, WAS REQUESTED ON MAY 12. A CABLE TO EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR OUTLINING VARIOUS QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS ON ORDER WAS IN PREPARATION AT TIME OF RODRIGUEZ' ARREST. IN DISCUSSING THIS WITH GOES YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT IN THE COURSE OF STANDARD REVIEW PROCEDURES EMBASSY WOULD HAVE BROUGHT APPLICATION FOR UNUSUALLY LARGE QUANTITY OF WEAPONS TO ITS ATTENTION. ROBINSON

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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